



SENATOR
RICHARD D. YOUNG JR.
116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★ SENATE DISTRICT 47

NEWS RELEASE

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Young legislation approved by General Assembly

INDIANAPOLIS— The 2010 legislative session of the 116th General Assembly ended on March 13, with 115 bills sent to the governor. State Sen. Richard D. Young Jr. (D-Milltown) sponsored or authored a number of bills that gained approval by the legislature and are awaiting final action by the governor or set to become law. These include:

Merger of rural electric and telephone cooperatives

Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 126, coauthored by Sen. Young, allows one or more rural electric membership corporations (REMCs) to merge or consolidate with one or more rural telephone cooperative corporations to form a surviving corporation, in the case of a merger, or a successor corporation, in the case of a consolidation. The bill provides that a surviving corporation or successor corporation is considered to be both an REMC and a telephone cooperative corporation. SEA 126 also sets forth provisions for the cooperative, such as articles of incorporation and bylaws, selection of the board of directors, general and enumerated powers of the board and the surviving corporation or successor corporation, the acquisition and disposition of property, articles of dissolution, charges for services rendered and the jurisdiction of the utility regulatory commission (IURC). SEA 126 was signed into law by the governor on March 12 and becomes effective July 1.

Assessment of agricultural land

SEA 396, coauthored by Sen. Young, protects Indiana farmers and agriculture companies by more accurately reflecting land values. Beginning with taxes payable in 2011, SB 396 will change the calculation by which farmland assessments are determined. Under the proposal, the base rate formula for farmland assessments would be done on an adjusted six-year average with the highest value eliminated. The Indiana Department of Local Government and Finance currently determines farmland value based on a six-year rolling average. The value is based on a formula that takes into account information on land rents, crop yields and prices, and interest rates. Farmland values are recalculated each year as part of the trending process. The bill was approved 50 to 0 in the Senate and 97 to 1 in the House. SEA 396 now advances to the governor for final consideration. If enacted, the bill will become effective July 1.

Last year the Indiana Rural Caucus was formed in the Indiana General Assembly to help identify and promote rural issues in state government. Sen. Young, along with nearly forty other lawmakers from both sides of the aisle, are considering ways to improve the property assessment system to more accurately reflect the true values of farmland and property used in the agricultural industries in Indiana.

Wild game donations

House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1064, sponsored by Sen. Young, establishes a procedure to collect voluntary donations for the Indiana Sportsmen's Benevolence Account when a hunting license is sold. This account covers the cost of processing donated wild game that is used to help feed Indiana's hungry. The introduced version of the bill was prepared by the Natural Resources Study Committee. The bill was approved by a unanimous vote in both chambers. HEA 1064 was signed into law by the governor on March 12 and becomes effective July 1.

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Local port authorities

HEA 1076, sponsored by Sen. Young, eliminates the requirement that a local port authority contract be in the name of the political subdivision creating the authority. The bill also states that the port authority may exercise certain powers independent of any political subdivision and authorizes local port authorities to borrow funds. The legislation will clear up the language clearly defining port authorities as instruments of the state. The ports in Indiana provide competitive advantages to the companies that move cargo by water, highway and rail. The legislation would make it easier for port authorities to contract with companies that transport goods from the ports to manufacturing and agricultural markets. The bill was approved 30 to 20 in the Senate and 94 to 0 in the House. HEA 1076 was signed into law by the governor on March 12 and becomes effective July 1.

For more information on Sen. Young, his legislative agenda or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit www.senatedemocrats.in.gov.

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